

ATLANTIC CITY SWINGS

Even the cops are dancing at pop festival

The Atlantic City Pop Festival braced for today's finale after two days of swinging music, sprawling live-in camp sites, ecstatic but well-behaved youngsters by the thousands and dancing cops.

After yesterday afternoon's performance, the kids scattered into the woods surrounding the Atlantic City race track to spend a second night encamped in tent towns they had dubbed "Freak City" and "Ripple City."

About 40,000 rock fans jammed the racetrack stands for Friday evening's opening performances by the Iron Butterfly and the Chambers Brothers, and more were expected as the festival reached its peak last night and today.

CARS FOR MILES

Cars parked along the roadside for miles in any direction from the track bore license plates from nearly every state in the Union, and groups camping in the tent cities came from as far as California and Canada.

There were unmistakable signs of youthful enthusiasm opening night as a couple thousand kids climbed over the fence separating the stage from the grandstands and began dancing on the track. They responded with good humor, however, when perched to return to their seats.

Occasionally, a young man was observed Friday night climbing to a prominent

perch to gyrate for a few minutes in the nude.

In sharp contrast to rock and folk music festivals in this summer, however, there have been no incidents of mass disorder at Atlantic City. Some of the special policemen on duty opening night had so little to do they caught the mood of the event and were seen dancing to the music on a platform overlooking the stage.

BRACE FOR TROUBLE

Local police were braced for possible trouble and additional officers were brought in from state police barracks in south Jersey. By yesterday afternoon, however, only five arrests had been reported. Four of those arrested were Pennsylvania boys charged with illegal possession of drugs and the fifth was a Florida youth charged with disorderly conduct for riding nude atop a car in the crush of people leaving the track after a performance.

A middle-aged woman at an information booth remarked, "I'm quite surprised at how well-mannered these kids are. It's just plain nice."

Public Information Sgt. Gordon Heckter of the Mays Landing State Police unit said, "The youths are conducting themselves very well."

During performances, the youngsters were seen passing cardboard boxes among themselves to collect paper cups and wrappers in an effort to make the work of the cleanup men easier.

The audience at the performances was a sea of costumes decidedly unconven-

tional by over-30 standards. The few spectators wearing suits and ties or dresses stood out like sore thumbs.

Many of the boys wore no shirts and the girls no shoes. There were plenty of headbands, peace pendants, Indian saris, Mexican serapis, and horse blankets. Most of the kids preferred to sit on the concrete plaza in front of the grandstand where they gathered in groups on blankets.

Business was great for operators of food concessions at the track. "They eat like

crazy," said Allan Ginsberg of Camden. He said he had hired 150 employees for the festival and none of them had a moment of relaxation from the heavy business.

A mimeographed sheet given to concession personnel gave advice on how to get along with the youngsters.

"The customers are all youthful and their manner, speech, looks and apparel are somewhat bizarre to say the least," said the advisory.

"To be on the safe side, we are reminding you that you should control your comments about the general appearance of the customers and be sure

to laugh with them and not at them and not to make any derogatory remarks in their presence," the advisory concluded.

Today's program features Janis Joplin and the Buddy Rich Band. Yesterday the kids danced to the sounds of the Jefferson Airplane, Creedence Clearwater Revival, and the American Dream.